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traordinary development of nerves on the end of the bill. They obtain their food by the delicacy of their power of feeling, as the Apteryx does by its powers of smelling.

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Professor Graves read the following memorandum in reference to the discovery of the remains of a cedar ship, near Tyrella, in the county of Down, by George A. Hamilton, Esq., M. P. :

“ About the year 1796, the late Mr. Hamilton, in pulling down some old buildings at Tyrella, found, to his surprise, that the beams, lintels, &c., were composed of cedar. On inquiry, he was informed that there was a tradition (for even then it was but a tradition) that a large ship, from the coast of Guinea, laden with slaves, ivory and gold dust, had been wrecked, a great many years previous to the Bay of Dundrum, and a considerable portion showed up in the sands near Tyrella; and though the lapse of so many years, had undergone considerable changes, there was still a mark known by the country people under the name of ‘The Cedar Ship.’ I remember this well when a child. There were two pieces of wood, covered with sea-weed, to be seen at very low tides, sticking up in the sand.

“ About the year 1815, my father, having collected a number of men, and having made an excavation in the sands, discovered the upper works of the ship, and succeeded in obtaining six elephants’ tusks, a considerable quantity of cedar, a silver goblet, and the remains of chains supposed to be those with which the slaves had been confined.

“ The situation of the wreck being under the level of low water, and the soft oozy nature of the sand rendering the work extremely difficult, prevented his proceeding further with the excavation.

“ On the 10th of November, 1829, it occurred to me to make a similar attempt. The marks of the ship had been long effaced, and I found some difficulty in discovering the place. I succeeded, however, and in one tide I obtained six-

teen elephants' tusks, a large quantity of cedar, four cannons, the remains of a number of swords, muskets, and chains, a number of small shells, some coral, a piece of metal, nearly in the shape of a horse-shoe, which, at the time, we supposed to be the handle of a trunk, and several pieces of a heavy metallic substance.

“ Sir Charles Giesecke stated this substance to be a kind of iron dross, probably of volcanic production, which is abundant on the coast of Guinea, and the shells have been classified as of that description which the inhabitants there use for money.”

Professor Graves exhibited specimens of the shells, coral, &c.; and mentioned that the piece of metal, supposed to have been the handle of a trunk, was one of the *manillæ*, or bracelets, used to this day for the purpose of barter by merchants trading on the coast of Africa, and identical in shape with the massive gold ornaments frequently found in Ireland.

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Professor Graves also read the following memorandum, by Mr. Hamilton, relative to the discovery of what is termed by the country people “a North House,” in the demesne of Hampton, and the opening of a tumulus near Knockingen :

“ In the month of September, 1840, my brother-in-law, Mr. Rowland Burdon, of Castle Eden, in the county of Durham, being on a visit at Hampton Hall, it occurred to me one morning to ask him to examine two hillocks near Barnageera, in this neighbourhood, in order to ascertain whether they were artificial mounds, or whether they were some of those natural heaps of gravel called Eskers, which are found so frequently across Ireland.

“ Mr. Burdon had satisfied himself that the first which he examined was natural, when his attention was attracted by a large stone in the face of a ditch, which had been made recently, traversing the hillock ; he found it to be a flag, and, when pulled down, it proved the head-stone of a rude stone coffin, with a skeleton encased. There was no weapon or coin, or anything to indicate the date or circumstances of the